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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:Weeks
Application No.	:09/554,951
Filed	:November 27, 2000
For	:THE USE OF Δ^5 -ANDROSTENE-3 β -OL-7,17-DIENE IN THE TREATMENT OF ARTHRITIS
Examiner	:Hui, San-ming
Group Art Unit	:1617

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the non-final Office Action of December 5, 2001 for the above-referenced application, the following timely Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted.

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 12 through 21 without prejudice to future prosecution.

Please amend claims 1 through 11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment or prevention, comprising administering to said patient a steroid selected from the group consisting of Δ^5 -androstene- 3β -ol-7,17-dione and 3β esters thereof, wherein said administration results in amelioration or prevention of one or more symptoms of arthritis.

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